referred will consider the problem in all its aspects and make suitable recommendations.

As the details of the variations of the several items have been explained in the memorandum, I do not wish to detain the House by further elaboration.

Medical Department.—I now come to the Medical Department. We have not been unmindful of the necessity of this department in its various activities, and the provision we have made for this department for 1102 exceeds the anticipated expenditure for the current year by Rs. 6,100. A sum of Rs. 68,000 has been provided for 1102 towards cost of medicines, instruments, etc., as against the revised estimate of Rs. 66,500 while the provision under 'Dietary charges' has been fixed at Rs. 30,000, following the revised estimate.

Sanitation and Conservancy.—As against the revised estimate of Rs. 19,100, a provision of Rs. 12,000 only is made for Town improvement works in the coming year. Similarly, the contribution to the Municipal Councils has been reduced from Rs. 20,943 to Rs. 11,848 which is distributed as follows.—

Trichur Rs. 7,504
Chittur-Tattamangalam Rs. 4,344.

The principle followed in fixing these contributions is that they should cover the deficits in the Municipal budgets for the year.

The usual provision of Rs. 10,000 for improvement of water supply has been transferred to the Panchayat Department, as the Government consider that these local bodies would be a more proper agency for the execution of such works. It cannot but be admitted, as I observed last year, that the Sanitation Department has been relieved of many of its original functions as a result of the advent and growth of the Panchayats. During recent years the Panchayats have considerably extended the scope of their activities, and they have taken the control of sanitation also in several places. It has been the practice to provide different amounts in the Panchayat and Sanitation budgets for Conservancy works in rural areas with the result that there are now two different and independent agencies acting in contiguous areas and attending to similar duties. As already remarked, the Panchayat appears to the Government to be the better agency, and hence the transfer of the provision to the Panchayat budget. The question of the Sanitary staff, as affected by the transfer, is under the consideration of the Government.

Public Works.—Under 'Public Works' a provision of Rs. 11,45,300 is made, of which Rs. 2,00,000 is for 'Mechanical and

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